
DIGEST

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Dixon

HB No. 194

Abstract: Provides relative to the close of registration records in a parish in which the registrar is unable to open at least one office on the final day for registration.

Present law (La. Election Code–R.S. 18:131-133) provides relative to offices of the registrar. Provides for the registrar's principal office, branch offices, mobile registration units, and for the operation of temporary offices in certain circumstances. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:135) provides relative to the close of registration records. Requires the registrar to close the registration records 30 days prior to an election, unless the deadline falls on a legal holiday, in which case the deadline is moved to the next day that is not a holiday.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that if because of an emergency as declared by the governor or by the parish president the registrar is unable to open at least one office in the parish on the day on which the registration records are to be closed pursuant to present law, the registrar shall close the registration records on the first business day thereafter that the registrar opens an office in the parish. Provides that an application for any entry or change in a registration received by the registrar on this day shall be deemed to have been received as of the day the registration records were to be closed pursuant to present law.

Proposed law requires the registrar to notify the secretary of state as soon as possible upon determining that the registrar will be unable to open at least one office. Provides that proposed law does not apply if the registrar fails to open an office before the twentieth day prior to the day of the election. Provides that in such case, the present law deadline applies. Defines "parish president" as the president of any parish, mayor-president, mayor of New Orleans, or police jury president.

Present law provides that except as otherwise provided by present law, while the registration records are closed, registrars shall accept any application for registration, change of address, change of party affiliation or nonaffiliation, change of name, or application for any other lawful entry or change in a registration, but none of these shall be effective until at least the day after the election has been held. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:135(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Provides that the emergency that causes the registrar to be unable to open an office must be declared by the governor or by the parish president.
2. Defines "parish president" as the president of any parish, mayor-president, mayor of New Orleans, or police jury president.
3. Provides that the day on which the registrar closes the registration records pursuant to proposed law must be a business day.
4. Provides that an application for any entry or change in a registration received by the registrar on the day on which the registrar closes the registration records pursuant to proposed law shall be deemed to have been received as of the day the registration records were to be closed pursuant to present law.